

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

April 12, 2021

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 12th day of April 2021 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Dennis L. Rolfs, 1st District Commissioner

Gregory C. Bender, 2nd District Commissioner

Stephen S. Dlabal, Jr, 3rd District Commissioner

OPENING BUSINESS:

Chairman Dlabal called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bender moved to approve the Agenda with an addition. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Rolfs moved to approve the Minutes for April 5, 2021. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Leeroy Charvat attended a meeting April 11, 2021 at the Vesper Community Center, where Norman Kincaid discussed his experience with the National Heritage Area (NHA). Mr. Charvat believes the NHA is going to dictate how property owners use their land and the Commissioners need to take action on this problem. The National Heritage Area is not being transparent with their intentions. The Commissioners said they needed more information and would work with Paul Kasper, Ellsworth County Attorney, to get a resolution.

APPOINTMENTS:

At 9:30 a.m. Commissioners walked across the street to view the Rolling Hills Electric building that is for sale. John Bailey, Sue Arensman, Nancy Hysong, Mark Kennedy, Chief Halfhill and Rusty Varnado were present during the tour. The property being discussed is located between the alley between the old 4H barn and the old Radio Shack to Kansas Ave. and between 1st Street and the alley, excluding Dave Kralik's property. Several offices in the Courthouse are out of space to secure records that must be kept per Kansas State Statutes.

Murray Marston, Sheriff, told the Commissioners he does not want dispatch to make the decision on controlled burns and the Fire Chiefs need to keep this authority. Sheriff Marston asked Commissioners if it was okay if they have the Road & Bridge level out the area between the jail and the Courthouse for extra Sheriff parking. The Commissioners said they had no problem with that. **Katie Nelson, Dispatcher Supervisor**, informed the Commissioners that this week is National Public Safety Telecommunications (Dispatch) Week. This week celebrates the

initial 1st responders. Commissioner Rolfs made the motion to proclaim the week of April 11-17, 2021 as National public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Ellsworth County. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Jeremiah Brown, EMS Director, reviewed the education policies currently in place with Ellsworth County. When an employee goes to school, they receive a grant for \$5,000 and the rest is paid out of the EMS education budget. Mr. Brown thinks the employee should invest money into their education and wanted to know how the Commissioners felt about this. Commissioner Bender thinks it is a good idea that the employee has some ownership in their education.

Joan Rolfs, Melinda Boeken and Jody Britt also attended the meeting in Vesper April 11, 2021 and are concerned with the National Heritage Area motives. The Commissioners informed them they spoke with Mr. Charvat during the Public Forum about this matter. Commissioner Bender reiterated they would need to talk to the County Counselor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to award the comprehensive plan with Marvin Planning Consultants. Commissioner Dlabal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Dlabal adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Shelly D. Vopat, County Clerk

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